

Appl. No. : 09/389,720
Filed : September 3, 1999

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed November 20, 2003. Applicant has hereby amended Claims 20 and 22 and added new Claims 59-80. Thus, Claims 20-24, 26, 29, 30 and 59-80 are pending in this application.

A summary document is included herein above with the status of all claims and the text of all pending claims. The specific changes to the amended claims are shown by ~~strikethrough for any deletions~~ and underlining for any insertions.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

The Examiner rejected Claims 20-24, 26, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,144,102 Amagai (hereafter "Amagai").

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and the Examiner's characterization of the cited references. In this case, Applicant has amended Claim 20 to more particularly define embodiments of the invention.

Independent Claim 20 is directed to an assembly and recites, among other things, that the carrier is removed from the assembly upon completion of at least a portion of a process of manufacturing die packages. Amagai does not teach or suggest an assembly as set forth in Applicant's Claim 20.

Amagai teaches a lead frame (21) characterized by the Examiner as a carrier. The lead frame (21) includes dam leads (21a) characterized by the Examiner as cross bars. As clearly shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 and as stated by Amagai at column 6, lines 67 and 68, the dam leads (21a) are not removed during manufacture and remain to form a portion of the package. Thus, Amagai does not appear to anticipate Applicant's Claim 20. Moreover, Amagai appears to teach away from Applicant's Claim 20.

Claim 22 has been amended to correct a noted typographical error. Claims 21-24, 26, 29 and 30 depend from Claim 20, and each recites a unique combination of features not taught by the prior art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 20-24, 26, 29 and 30 are in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims have been added. Claims 59-80 have been drafted to vary the scope of protection and/or to protect other features of embodiments of the invention.

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Each of these claims is patentable over the prior art and no new matter has been introduced. Consideration of Claims 59-80 is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Enclosed herewith is a copy of a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, filed November 1, 2002, that does not appear to have been acknowledged by the Examiner. The Statement includes form PTO-1449 form listing one reference that is also enclosed.

Also enclosed herewith is a copy of another form PTO-1449 signed by the Examiner on November 5, 2003 in which one reference was not initialed by the Examiner. The reference is JP 11-180291A.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration of the noted references and return of initialed copies of the subject PTO-1449 forms in the next communication to Applicant.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If further issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned such that any remaining issues may be promptly resolved. Also, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 2/19/04

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